

CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Name:	Shumaker Trucking Road LUL
Proposed Implementation Date:	August 2019
Proponent:	Shumaker Trucking and Excavating Contractors, Inc.
Location:	18N 21E 20 N2NW4
County:	Fergus
Trust:	Common Schools

I. TYPE AND PURPOSE OF ACTION

The purpose of this EA is to assess the environmental impacts of a Land Use License to use an existing road for hauling gravel and equipment for mining gravel.

II. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

1. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, AGENCIES, GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED:

Provide a brief chronology of the scoping and ongoing involvement for this project.

The Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)
Northeastern Land Office (NELO)
Proponent: Shumaker Trucking and Excavating Contractors, Inc.
Surface Lessees: Rindal 1996 Living Trust

2. OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTION, LIST OF PERMITS NEEDED:

The DNRC, and NELO have jurisdiction over this proposed project.

The proponent is responsible for acquiring all required permits for the proposed project. The proponent is responsible for settling all surface damages with the surface lessees.

DNRC is not aware of any other agencies with jurisdiction or other permits needed to complete this project

3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

Alternative A (No Action) – Under this alternative, the Department does not grant permission to use an existing road on state lands.

Alternative B (the Proposed Action) – Under this alternative, the Department does grant permission to use an existing road on state lands.

III. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

- *RESOURCES potentially impacted are listed on the form, followed by common issues that would be considered.*
- *Explain POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATIONS following each resource heading.*
- *Enter "NONE" if no impacts are identified or the resource is not present.*

4. GEOLOGY AND SOIL QUALITY, STABILITY AND MOISTURE:

Consider the presence of fragile, compactable or unstable soils. Identify unusual geologic features. Specify any special reclamation considerations. Identify any cumulative impacts to soils.

The roads that the licensed activity would take place on would have some limitations. There is a severe soil rutting hazard and a severe on-road erosion hazard for one small area of the road. Because of this there would need to be limited use during very wet conditions. The rating for unpaved local roads is somewhat limited for most of the area and very limited for the same portion that has a severe erosion hazard. The road will only be used for a very short period of time and then the normal farming and ranching uses would resume so there should be no significant adverse effects to soil quality stability or moisture.

Table — Unpaved Local Roads and Streets — Summary by Rating Value

Summary by Rating Value			
Rating	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI	
Somewhat limited	15.5	86.3%	
Very limited	2.5	13.7%	
Totals for Area of Interest	17.9	100.0%	

Table — Soil Rutting Hazard — Summary by Rating Value

Summary by Rating Value			
Rating	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI	
Severe	17.9	100.0%	
Totals for Area of Interest	17.9	100.0%	

Table — Erosion Hazard (Road, Trail) — Summary by Rating Value

Summary by Rating Value			
Rating	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI	
Slight	15.5	86.3%	
Severe	2.5	13.7%	
Totals for Area of Interest	17.9	100.0%	

5. WATER QUALITY, QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION:

Identify important surface or groundwater resources. Consider the potential for violation of ambient water quality standards, drinking water maximum contaminant levels, or degradation of water quality. Identify cumulative effects to water resources.

The only surface water that may be affected is an unnamed ephemeral stream that is a tributary to Brush Creek. This tributary may or may not have water in it at the time of road use. There could be possible sediment load pollution to the water, if present, from the dust associated with trucking. No surface or ground water will be altered by this project.

No cumulative effects to the water resources are anticipated.

6. AIR QUALITY:

What pollutants or particulate would be produced? Identify air quality regulations or zones (e.g. Class I air shed) the project would influence. Identify cumulative effects to air quality.

Air quality in the area may be temporarily affected by dust and exhaust from trucking and hauling operations. Air quality effects will be localized and will return to normal levels after the activities are completed.

No cumulative effects to air quality are anticipated.

7. VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY:

What changes would the action cause to vegetative communities? Consider rare plants or cover types that would be affected. Identify cumulative effects to vegetation.

There will be no changes to vegetation by the activities of this license. All trucking will be done on existing roads.

If re-seeding is necessary the proponent will acquire certified, weed free seed and refer to the Plant Materials Tech Note No. MT-46 (Rev. 4) dated September 2013 for seeding rates.

There is a potential of noxious weed spread from vehicles and mining equipment being driven on the road. The proponent would be responsible under the license for spraying any new weeds brought in by their operation.

Plant Species of Concern (switch to Animals record) 0 Species Filtered by the following criteria: Township = 018N021E (based on mapped Species Occurrences)	Species List Last Updated 09/25/2018
--	--------------------------------------

No rare plants or cover types are present. No significant adverse effects to vegetation expected.

8. TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS:

Consider substantial habitat values and use of the area by wildlife, birds or fish. Identify cumulative effects to fish and wildlife.

The area is not considered critical wildlife habitat. There may be temporary displacement of wildlife that will stop once the mining on adjacent land is completed.

No cumulative effects are anticipated.

9. UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE OR LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES:

Consider any federally listed threatened or endangered species or habitat identified in the project area. Determine effects to wetlands. Consider Sensitive Species or Species of special concern. Identify cumulative effects to these species and their habitat.

All the species of concern present in the license area are mobile and may be temporarily displaced. Because the work will be done on an existing road there will be no new habitat disturbed and there should be no species affected. Though sage grouse are present in the township the road area is not in the Montana sage grouse executive order habitat area.

Species of Concern 4 Species Filtered by the following criteria: Township = 018N021E (based on mapped Species Occurrences)										
MAMMALS (MAMMALIA)										
SCIENTIFIC NAME COMMON NAME TAXA SORT	FAMILY (SCIENTIFIC) FAMILY (COMMON)	GLOBAL RANK	STATE RANK	USFWS	USFS	BLM	FWP SWAP	% OF GLOBAL BREEDING RANGE IN HT	% OF HT THAT IS BREEDING RANGE	HABITAT
<i>Cynomys ludovicianus</i> Black-tailed Prairie Dog	Sciuridae Squirrels	G4	S3		Sensitive - Known on Forests (CG)	SENSITIVE	SGCH3	15%	71%	Grasslands
Species Occurrences verified in these Counties: Big Horn, Blaine, Carbon, Carter, Cascade, Chouteau, Custer, Fallon, Fergus, Garfield, Golden Valley, Hill, Jefferson, Judith Basin, Lewis and Clark, Liberty, McCone, Musselshell, Petroleum, Phillips, Powder River, Prairie, Richland, Rosebud, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Teton, Treasure, Yellowstone, and Yellowstone National Park.										
State Rank Reason: Across much of western Montana this species occurs in areas with suitable soil and topography. However, historic plague has caused the species to decline and has altered colony size and dynamics. Ongoing livestock grazing and persecution due to perceived competition with grazing make complete status of this species uncertain.										
BIRDS (AVES)										
SCIENTIFIC NAME COMMON NAME TAXA SORT	FAMILY (SCIENTIFIC) FAMILY (COMMON)	GLOBAL RANK	STATE RANK	USFWS	USFS	BLM	FWP SWAP	% OF GLOBAL BREEDING RANGE IN HT	% OF HT THAT IS BREEDING RANGE	HABITAT
<i>Ardea herodias</i> Great Blue Heron	Ardeidae Bittern / Egrets / Herons / Night-Herons	G5	S3				SGCH3	3%	100%	Riparian forest
Species Occurrences verified in these Counties: Beaufort, Blaine, Cascade, Carbon, Carter, Cascade, Chouteau, Custer, DeWitt, Deer Lodge, Fallon, Fergus, Flathead, Glacier, Golden Valley, Granite, Hill, Jefferson, Judith Basin, Lake, Lewis and Clark, Liberty, McCone, Musselshell, Petroleum, Phillips, Powder River, Prairie, Richland, Rosebud, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Teton, Treasure, Yellowstone, and Yellowstone National Park.										
State Rank Reason: Small breeding population size, evidence of recent declines, and declining regeneration of riparian wetland forests due to altered hydrology and grazing.										
<i>Centrocercus urophasianus</i> Greater Sage Grouse	Phasianidae Upland Game Birds	G3G4	S2		Sensitive - Known on Forests (BO) Sensitive - Suspected on Forests (CG, H/C)	SENSITIVE	SGCH2	17%	75%	Sagebrush
Species Occurrences verified in these Counties: Beaverhead, Big Horn, Blaine, Cascade, Carbon, Carter, Chouteau, Custer, DeWitt, Deer Lodge, Fallon, Fergus, Glacier, Garfield, Golden Valley, Hill, Judith Basin, McCone, Musselshell, Petroleum, Phillips, Powder River, Prairie, Richland, Rosebud, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Teton, Treasure, Yellowstone, and Yellowstone National Park.										
State Rank Reason: Species occur throughout the state in a wide range of habitats. It is dependent on a variety of habitat conditions for agriculture and increased frequency of fire as a result of land encroachment and drought.										
<i>Spizella breweri</i> Brewer's Sparrow	Passerellidae New World Sparrows	G5	S1B			SENSITIVE	SGCH3	12%	100%	Sagebrush
Species Occurrences verified in these Counties: Beaverhead, Big Horn, Blaine, Cascade, Carbon, Carter, Chouteau, Custer, DeWitt, Deer Lodge, Fallon, Fergus, Flathead, Glacier, Golden Valley, Granite, Hill, Jefferson, Lake, Lewis and Clark, Liberty, McCone, Musselshell, Petroleum, Phillips, Powder River, Prairie, Richland, Rosebud, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Teton, Treasure, Yellowstone, and Yellowstone National Park.										

There are no known unique, endangered, fragile or limited environmental resources on this site.

No cumulative effects to habitat are anticipated.

10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES:

Identify and determine effects to historical, archaeological or paleontological resources.

A Class I (literature review) level review was conducted by the DNRC staff archaeologist for the area of potential effect (APE). This entailed inspection of project maps, DNRC's sites/site leads database, land use records, General Land Office Survey Plats, and control cards. The Class I search revealed that *Antiquities* have not been identified in the APE. No additional archaeological investigative work will be conducted in response to this proposed development. However, if previously unknown cultural or paleontological materials are identified during project related activities, all work will cease until a professional assessment of such resources can be made.

No effects on historical, archaeological, or paleontological resources anticipated.

11. AESTHETICS:

Determine if the project is located on a prominent topographic feature, or may be visible from populated or scenic areas. What level of noise, light or visual change would be produced? Identify cumulative effects to aesthetics.

No direct or cumulative effects to aesthetics are anticipated.

12. DEMANDS ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES OF LAND, WATER, AIR OR ENERGY:

Determine the amount of limited resources the project would require. Identify other activities nearby that the project would affect. Identify cumulative effects to environmental resources.

No demands on limited resources are required for this project.

No direct or cumulative effects to environmental resources are anticipated.

13. OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS PERTINENT TO THE AREA:

List other studies, plans or projects on this tract. Determine cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of current private, state or federal actions in the analysis area, and from future proposed state actions in the analysis area that are under MEPA review (scoped) or permitting review by any state agency.

There are no other projects or plans being considered on the tracts listed in this EA Checklist.

IV. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION

- *RESOURCES potentially impacted are listed on the form, followed by common issues that would be considered.*
- *Explain POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATIONS following each resource heading.*
- *Enter "NONE" if no impacts are identified or the resource is not present.*

14. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY:

Identify any health and safety risks posed by the project.

The only human health and safety risks are those posed by construction traffic. These risks will be the responsibility of drivers of the proponent to mitigate.

15. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURE ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION:

Identify how the project would add to or alter these activities.

This project would allow gravel mined on adjacent land to be extracted and used in local commercial projects.

16. QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT:

Estimate the number of jobs the project would create, move or eliminate. Identify cumulative effects to the employment market.

The project will not create any new jobs. These positions are already held by employees of the proponent. No cumulative effects to the employment market are anticipated.

17. LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES:

Estimate tax revenue the project would create or eliminate. Identify cumulative effects to taxes and revenue.

There are no direct or cumulative effects to taxes or revenue for the proposed project.

18. DEMAND FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES:

Estimate increases in traffic and changes to traffic patterns. What changes would be needed to fire protection, police, schools, etc.? Identify cumulative effects of this and other projects on government services

There will be short term increases in traffic associated with gravel mining but most traffic will be on rural gravel roads and there should be no direct or cumulative effects on government services.

19. LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS:

List State, County, City, USFS, BLM, Tribal, and other zoning or management plans, and identify how they would affect this project.

There are no zoning or other agency management plans affecting this project.

20. ACCESS TO AND QUALITY OF RECREATIONAL AND WILDERNESS ACTIVITIES:

Identify any wilderness or recreational areas nearby or access routes through this tract. Determine the effects of the project on recreational potential within the tract. Identify cumulative effects to recreational and wilderness activities.

There will be no direct or cumulative effects on recreation or wilderness activities.

21. DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND HOUSING:

Estimate population changes and additional housing the project would require. Identify cumulative effects to population and housing

The proposed project does not include any changes to housing or developments. Population and housing will not be affected. No direct or cumulative effects to population or housing are anticipated.

22. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES:

Identify potential disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities.

There are no native, unique or traditional lifestyles or communities in the vicinity that would be impacted by the proposal.

23. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY:

How would the action affect any unique quality of the area?

The proposed project will have no effect on any unique quality of the area.

24. OTHER APPROPRIATE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES:

Estimate the return to the trust. Include appropriate economic analysis. Identify potential future uses for the analysis area other than existing management. Identify cumulative economic and social effects likely to occur as a result of the proposed action.

This license would provide \$200 to the common schools trust.

V. FINDING

25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:

Alternative B (the Proposed Action) – Under this alternative, the Department does grant permission to use an existing road on state lands.

26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:

I have evaluated the potential environment effects and have determined that no negative long-term environmental impacts will result from the proposed activity.

27. NEED FOR FURTHER ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

☐

EIS

☐

More Detailed EA

☒

XXX

No Further Analysis

**EA Checklist
Prepared By:**

Name: Dustin Lenz

Title: Land Use Specialist

Signature:



Date:

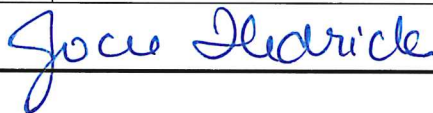
24 June 2019

**EA Checklist
Approved By:**

Name: Jocee Hedrick

Title: Unit Manager, Northeastern Land Office

Signature:



Date:

6/25/19

